THE KENSEI'S CALLIGRAPHY

天航 & 孫威軍

by TINHONG and Suen Wai Kwan

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The Kensei's Calligraphy

術数師

宮本武藏的
末世傳人

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S
LAST SUCCESSOR

二

Volume two

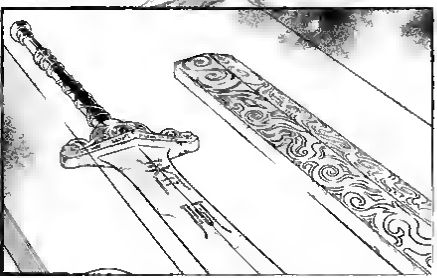
Characters

Wu Jieling

14 years old, able to communicate with souls, and has learned many of their secrets. Since birth, she has been under government-mandated house arrest, along with other protective measures. Currently being targeted for assassination by Wang Hou.

Lan Feiyun

19 years old, known as the 'Sword Soul'; Jia Jian's constant helper. He has the 'Bio-EM field' ability, and uses the 'Calligraphic Sword' style, which he learned through studying calligraphy.



Serenity Crescent

One of the Three Ancient Blades forged by the Legendary Ancient Swordsmith Ozhizi and his Thousand Disciples. It can emit an invisible Sword Aura, cutting without touching the object.

Jia Jian

Has solved many cases over the past ten years. He is quite famous in police circles.

Nine Song
A secret organization founded only recently, with all its members named after Ancients
Nine Song members
Gan Jiang
Moxie
Meng Wu
Meng Tian
Wang Hou
The first-ranked assassin in China, starting 20 years ago with his first kill at the age of 15. His target elimination success rate is 100%

Previously

While escorting the prisoner transport, Lan encountered members of the secret organization Nine Song, who succeeded in rescuing the prisoner — Gan Jiang. Just as the enemy was about to retreat, Lan received emergency instructions from officer Jia to protect an important person: Wu Jieling.

The fun-loving Wu Jieling forced Lan to go shopping with her, but the fun times didn't last, because an extremely dangerous person was closing in on Wu Jieling's life. He is the number one assassin — Wang Hou!

術数師

宮本武蔵的末世傳人

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T/N: Set during the cultural revolution, the banners are all to do with comradeship, anti-capitalism, and discouraging counter-revolutionary activities.

T/N: The proletariat fighting for a better life.

Sign: Nan Shan Hospital

The Kensei's Calligraphy

術數帥

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S LAST SUCCESSOR

第五回 CHAPTER 5

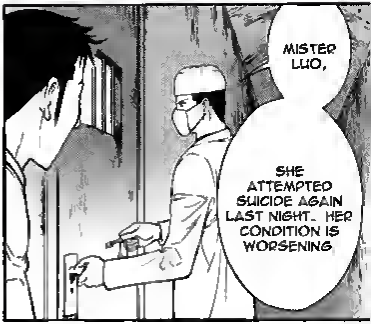
王虓的過去（一）

WANG HOU'S PAST (1)

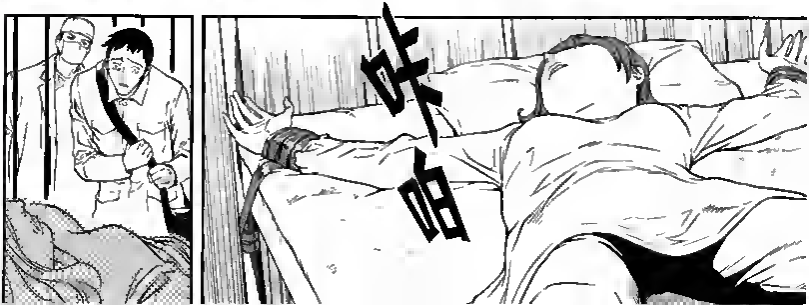
原著◎天航 漫畫◎孫威軍

Artwork: Suen Wai Kwan Story: TINHONG

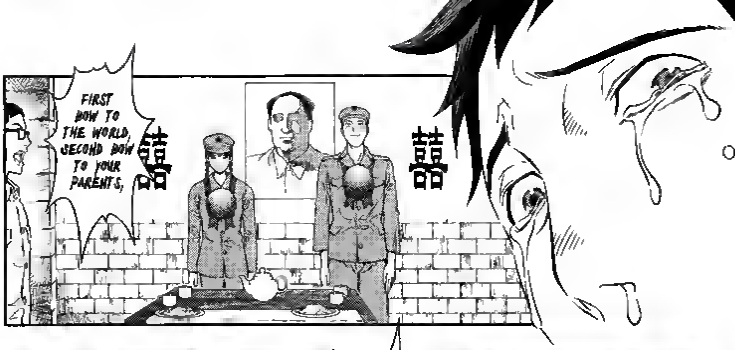
YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF


MISTER LUO,
SHE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AGAIN LAST NIGHT. HER CONDITION IS WORSENING

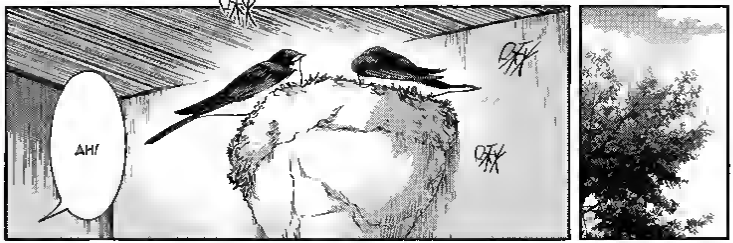
嗞
嗞
隆

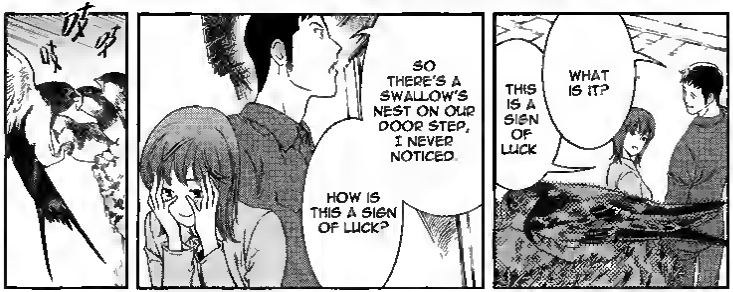

咔嗞

WHY AREN'T YOU LETTING ME SEE HIM?
WHERE IS OUR CHILD?
MY LOVE,
呜
呜
呜



T/N a ritual performed in Chinese weddings





AS SOON AS MY CAREER IS GOING WELL AND WE HAVE A CHILD TOGETHER, I'LL FEED YOU A MOUTH-FUL OF YANWO EVERY DAY
ONLY A MOUTHFUL?

I'LL SEE YOU OUT, DOCTOR
IT'S OK, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, AND MADAM WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD AGAIN
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜

Sfx crying

NINE MONTHS LATER
BE CAREFUL!
SORRY!
MY WIFE IS PREGNANT, I SHOULD GET HOME EARLY AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!
I'M BACK. I BOUGHT YOUR FAVOURITE PANCAKES

DEAR!
HOSPITAL! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW!
LET'S GO...

MISTER LUO, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME MRS. LUO HAS HAD A MISCARRIAGE.
I'M AFRAID...
SHE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONCEIVE AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL BE FINE!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE, WE CAN STILL MAKE IT!
呜
呜
呜
呜
呜
哈
哈
哈
哈
哈
哈

YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, THERE'S NO BABY CRYING HERE, JUST LIE DOWN SLOWLY NOW...
Our baby is crying so loudly, he's asking for me.
?
The, baby's crying.
WHEN I FIRST HAD A MISCARRIAGE, YOU ALWAYS STAYED OUT AT NIGHT. YOU PROBABLY HAVE A MISTRESS OUTSIDE!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
W... What...
YOU'RE LEAVING ME! YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE!

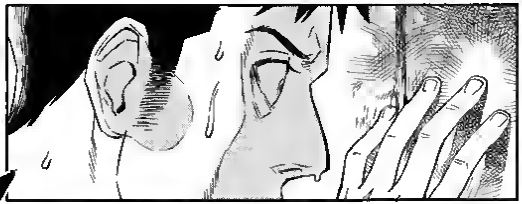
YOUR FATHER IS LEAVING US, MY CHILD!
MUMMY CAN HEAR YOU CRY! MUMMY WILL PROTECT YOU!
I'M GLAD WE SAVED HER, THOUGH HER CONDITION IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE NOW.
My heart...
Will never change, be it in this life or the next.
Even if we're suffering right now, will you still be mine in the next life?

HAVEN'T YOU DECIDED YET?
YOU'RE MY ONLY SON. I DON'T CARE IF I'VE SAID IT A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE, I'LL STILL SAY IT AGAIN,
I DON'T LIKE YOUR WIFE!
IF YOU STAY WITH HER, YOU'LL HAVE BAD LUCK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
CAN BE MY 50TH BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
HUMPH, YOUR DIVORCE...

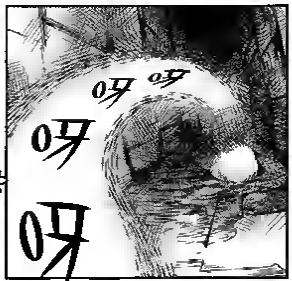
DAMN IT, IT'S MY TURN TO GO MAD NOW!
A BABY CRYING!
I'M NOT HALLUCINATING, IT'S ACTUALLY A BABY CRYING.

哇哇哇
呀哇
呀

降
降



哇
哇
哇


呀
呀
呀
呀

呀
吔呀呀
呀
呀呀
哇哇哇
哇哇哇

AN ABAN-DONED BABY?
Wah
Wah
!!
What happen-ed to your parents?
He's crying again, what should I do?
Wah
Wah
Wah
IF NO ONE TAKES CARE OF THIS BABY, HE WON'T LIVE FOR VERY LONG...

咚
咚
咚
咚
咚
跑
跑
跑
FIRST THING TO DO IS CHANGE THE NAPPY!
FOUND IT! NAPPY, FEEDING BOTTLE AND MILK POWDER. I BOUGHT THEM ALL BEFORE...
BLOOD?!
HE'S NOT HURT ANYWHERE, COULD IT HAVE BEEN BLOOD FROM LABOUR? OR...
!?

THIS...
IS A KNIFE...
NO WONDER HE WAS SO HEAVY WHEN I HELD HIM BEFORE

THIS IS PROBABLY A RELIC.
IT'S GOT TWO OLD SCRIPTS HERE,
IT DOESN'T OPEN. HAS IT RUSTED?
卡
卡
OH, RIGHT, NEED TO CHANGE THE NAPPY AND FEED HIM!
呀
呀
哇

THIS CHILD..
SMILING..
I HAVEN'T SMILED FOR A LONG TIME NOW

南山医病

MY LOVE...

THE ONLY THING MISSING IS A MOTHER!
I HOPE HE'LL BE LUCKY...

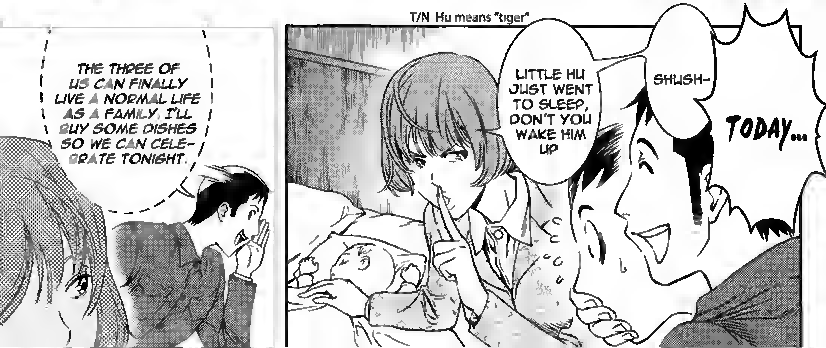
HE'S OUR CHILD, YOU COULDN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?

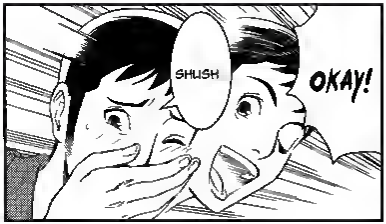
Coo-chee-coo.
IT SEEMS LIKE ALL THE LIES I'VE PREPARED BEFORE WON'T BE NECESSARY.
SAVED, WE'RE SAVED.
THIS CHILD IS GOD'S GIFT TO US.

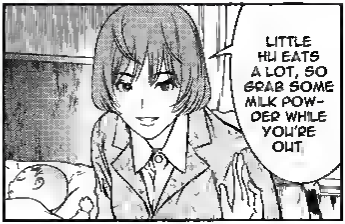
HE'S
OUR
ANGEL!

IT'S WONDERFUL.
THEIR MEETING ACTUALLY TURNED AROUND BOTH OF THEIR SAD FATES.
ONE'S AN ABANDONED BABY, THE OTHER A WOMAN MAD FROM HER MISCARRIAGES.

WE'RE HOME
TWO MONTHS LATER

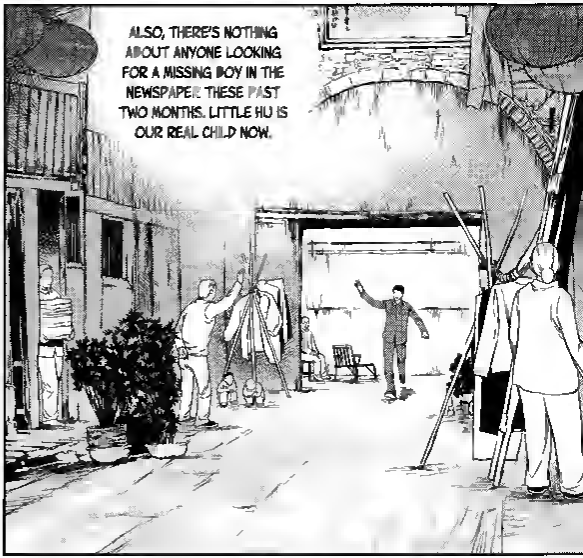

THE THREE OF US CAN FINALLY LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AS A FAMILY. I'LL BUY SOME DISHES SO WE CAN CELEBRATE TONIGHT.
T/N Hu means "tiger"
LITTLE HU JUST WENT TO SLEEP, DON'T YOU WAKE HIM UP
SHUSH-
TODAY...


SHUSH
OKAY!


LITTLE HU EATS A LOT, SO GRAB SOME MILK POWDER WHILE YOU'RE OUT.

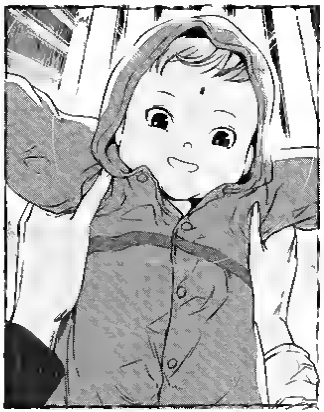
HIS PARENTS MUST BE HEARTLESS... THIS LITTLE THING IS SO AWFULLY CUTE,
HOW COULD ANYONE BE WILLING TO ABANDON HIM?

I WAS ABLE TO GET A FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE, A CENSUS REGISTER, AND THE OFFICIAL STAMP ON THE BIRTH REGISTER AT THE HOSPITAL FOR A BIT OF MONEY.
LITTLE HU, IT'S A NICKNAME I MADE FOR HIM.


ALSO, THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT ANYONE LOOKING FOR A MISSING BOY IN THE NEWSPAPER THESE PAST TWO MONTHS. LITTLE HU IS OUR REAL CHILD NOW.

嗜嗜隆
咱
咔
咯咯
咯
咯
咯

BANNER: CHARITY CLINIC
IT SHOULD BE NEAR, LET US START HERE.



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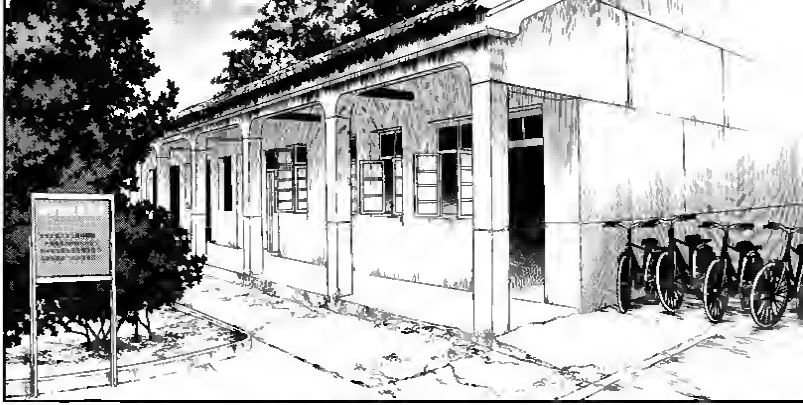
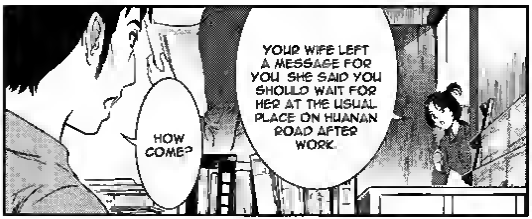
Chapter 6

The Devil's Descendent




YOUR WIFE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU. SHE SAID YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR HER AT THE USUAL PLACE ON HUANAN ROAD AFTER WORK.
HOW COME?

BROTHER LIU!

.....
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING MORE THAN THAT THOUGH.

SHE SAID THERE WAS A VISITING MEDICAL TEAM WHO JUST ARRIVED THEY'RE DOING A CHARITY CLINIC, VACCINATING BABIES

SEE YOU LATER
BYE BYE
铃
铃
铃
铃
义诊
Sign: Charity Clinic
哇
啦!!
哇
啦!!
哇
啦!!
哇
BE CHIL, PLEASE QUEUE UP!
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S NOT HERE YET.
IT'S SO LIVELY HERE

T/N: the sign on the nurse's arm is 'Luo'.

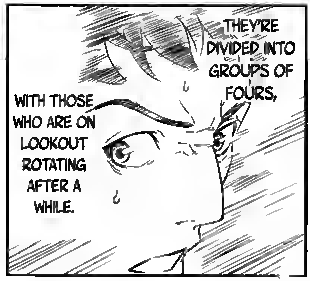
Sign: Free Infant Vaccination

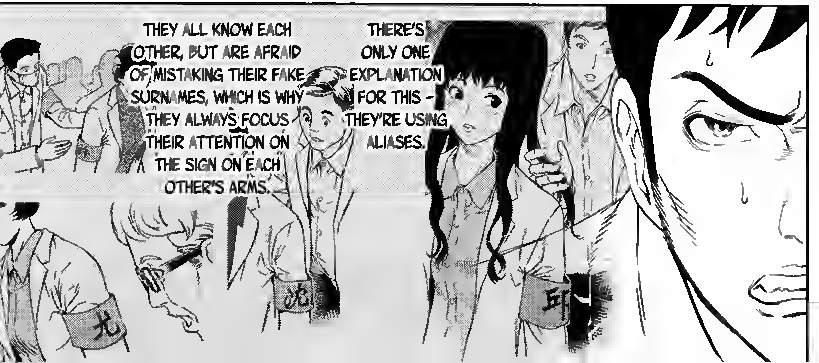
SHEN, COMRADE SHEN
COULD YOU HELP ME WITH.
沈
T/N signs on arms: 'Xu' above, 'You' below
尤
THIS IS STRANGE, ALL THESE PEOPLE SEEM LIKE THEY KNOW EACH OTHER WELL, BUT THEY ONLY CALL OUT EACH OTHER'S NAMES AFTER LOOKING AT THE SURNAMES ON THEIR ARMS FOR A FEW SECONDS.
ALSO, THEIR SURNAMES NEVER REPEAT, WHICH ISN'T STRANGE, BUT THE WEIRDEST THING IS THAT THEY HAVE NONE OF THE COMMON SURNAMES LIKE CHEN, LI, ZHANG, WANG OR LIU...

IT IS SO RARE TO SEE A DOZEN PEOPLE WHO ALL DO NOT HAVE THESE SURNAMES.
EVEN IF THEY'RE FROM FAR AWAY, IT DEFINITELY SHOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT.
CHEN, LI, ZHANG, WANG OR LIU WOULD HAVE AN EXTREMELY HIGH CHANCE OF APPEARING.
HMM, I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS.
钟
邱
骆
骆

IT'S THE 'HUNDRED FAMILY SURNAMES'! ZHU, QIN, YOU, XU, JIANG, SHEN, HAN, YANG, ZHONG, XU, QIU, LUO - EVERYONE PRESENT IS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE 'HUNDRED FAMILY SURNAMES'.

T/N: 'Hundred Family Surnames' is a text listing 504 surnames in China, it's a rhyming poem, easy to remember. The pinyin pronunciation corresponds to the surnames, top-down, right to left.




THEY ALL KNOW EACH OTHER, BUT ARE AFRAID OF MISTAKING THEIR FAKE SURNAMES, WHICH IS WHY THEY ALWAYS FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON THE SIGN ON EACH OTHER'S ARMS.
THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION FOR THIS - THEY'RE USING ALIASES.
尤
邱

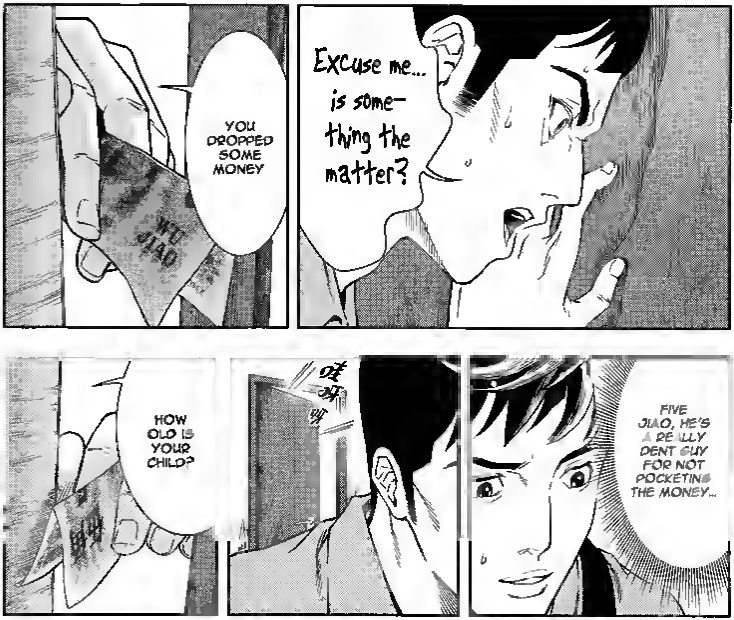
BUT... WHAT WILL THIS ACCOMPLISH?
蔣

HONEY!
Banner: Free service for the people
免费
婴儿疫苗
Sign: Free Infant Vaccination
WITH ALL THESE STRANGE BEHAVIOURS, COULD THEIR AIM BE THE BABIES?!
BABIES?!

I THINK SOME-ONE'S AFTER OUR CHILD!
HURRY! WE NEED TO GO HOME
HOME? ISN'T THERE A...
COMRADE!
抱!
IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT LITTLE HU IS NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY ORPHAN, IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT...
THESE PEOPLE ARE USING THE VACCINATION AS AN EXCUSE, GOING THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE JUST FOR THIS ONE CHILD. LOOKS LIKE LITTLE HU HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY BACKGROUND.

THERE MUST BE A TERRIBLE CONSPIRACY.
LITTLE HU MUST HAVE WET HIMSELF I'LL CHANGE THE NAPPY NOW
WE'RE HOME
咔

I'M
Lan.
T/N: Incidentally, this is also Lan Feiyun's surname.

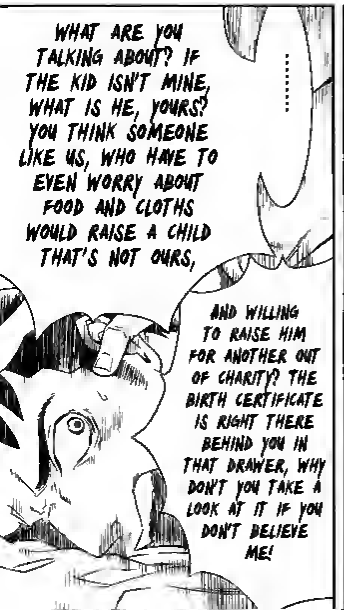

YOU DROPPED SOME MONEY
Excuse me... is some-thing the matter?
HOW OLD IS YOUR CHILD?
FIVE JIAO, HE'S A REALLY DECENT GUY FOR NOT POCKETING THE MONEY...

T/N: one Jiao is a tenth of 1 Yuan, or ten cents.

YES, I JUST CAME BACK FROM THAT PLACE. IT'S VERY BUSY.
MY APOLOGIES, BUT I HAVE SOME FAMILY STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME.
OH RIGHT, THERE'S A CHARITY CLINIC IN TOWN. THE VACCINATION FOR INFANTS IS FREE, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
Three... three months.

咱
呼
呼
呼
砰!!

There... there's nothing valuable here... You've got the wrong idea.

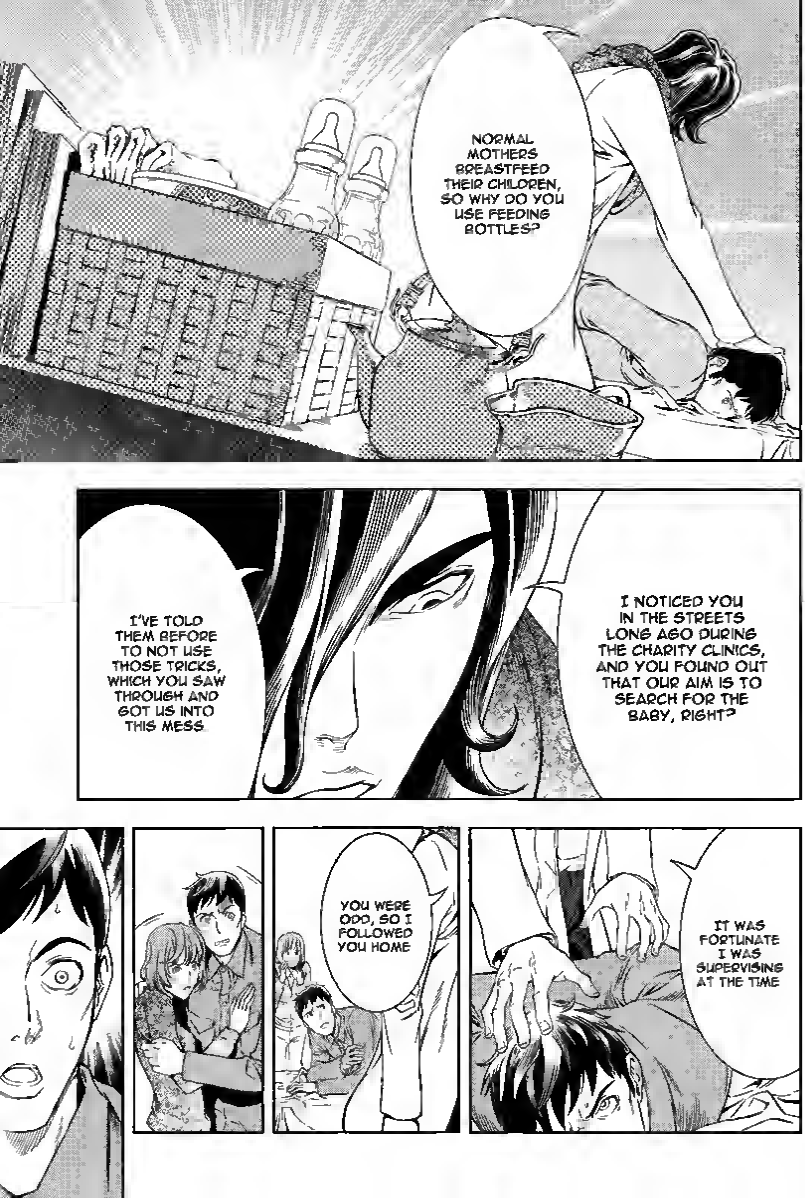

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IF THE KID ISN'T MINE, WHAT IS HE, YOURS? YOU THINK SOMEONE LIKE US, WHO HAVE TO EVEN WORRY ABOUT FOOD AND CLOTHS WOULD RAISE A CHILD THAT'S NOT OURS,
.....
AND WILLING TO RAISE HIM FOR ANOTHER OUT OF CHARITY? THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS RIGHT THERE BEHIND YOU IN THAT DRAWER, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK AT IT IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!

YOU ARE NOT THE BABY'S BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, ARE YOU?

STOP SHOUTING, YOU'LL...

WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED... HE'S...

SO... HOW WOULD YOU HAVE ME PROVE TO YOU THAT THE CHILD IS MINE?
YOU CAN FAKE A CERTIFICATE LIKE THAT, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
HOW ABOUT GROPING YOUR WIFE'S BREASTS!
IF THEY LACTATE, I'LL LEAVE THIS INSTANT AND WILL NEVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!


NORMAL MOTHERS BREASTFEED THEIR CHILDREN, SO WHY DO YOU USE FEEDING BOTTLES?
I NOTICED YOU IN THE STREETS LONG AGO DURING THE CHARITY CLINICS, AND YOU FOUND OUT THAT OUR AIM IS TO SEARCH FOR THE BABY, RIGHT?
I'VE TOLD THEM BEFORE TO NOT USE THOSE TRICKS, WHICH YOU SAW THROUGH AND GOT US INTO THIS MESS
YOU WERE ODD, SO I FOLLOWED YOU HOME
IT WAS FORTUNATE I WAS SUPERVISING AT THE TIME

LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT.
THAT DAGGER?! I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH LITTLE HU, I FORGOT IT WAS LEFT OUT IN THE OPEN.
IT'S STUCK, THIS IS THE ONE.

咔嚓
DON'T YOU DARE DO ANYTHING TO HU!
GET LOST.
THE BABY THAT TOOK OUR TEAM THREE MONTHS TO LOCATE...
THIS IS HIM!

呀
呀
呀
呀
PUT LITTLE HU DOWN!
THIS COUPLE REALLY DON'T CARE IF THEY DIE.

THEY HAVE NO REGARD FOR THEIR OWN LIVES, ALL FOR THIS BABY WHO HAS NO BLOOD RELATION WITH THEM
喘
GIVE UP, YOU TWO!
I'LL BE TAKING THIS BABY AWAY!

YOU PEOPLE... WHO ARE YOU?
IF I SAID WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.
THE GOOD GUYS?! WHY WOULD THE GOOD GUYS TREAT AN INNOCENT CHILD LIKE THIS?!
HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE...
BECAUSE OF WHAT HE TRULY IS
W... WHY?!
NO-
IT'S BECAUSE

THIS CHILD IS THE DEVIL'S DESCENDENT!

I CAN'T WIN...
UNDER WANG HOU'S UNIMAGINABLE STRENGTH, THE IRON BIRCH SWORD, WHICH IS TWICE AS HARD AS STEEL SHATTERED JUST LIKE A TWIG

I WILL NEVER GIVE UP!
HOWEVER...
DAMN IT!

AS LONG AS...
I CAN FIND JUST A TINY OPENING...
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH!

THE REASON WHY I USE A WOODEN SWORD...
IS BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO KILL.
BUT THIS TIME...
I HAVE NO CHOICE!

ORA

THAT SLUGGISH CHILD'S PLAY OF YOURS..
HAVE YOU FINISHED YET?!

噠
唰
唰

THE ANGEL BLOODLINE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH
WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE...
LAN IS GOING TO DIE,

LET ME DISSECT YOU AND SEE IF YOU'RE HIDING MAGNETS INSIDE YOU.
IT SEEMS YOU CAN USE MAGNETIC POWERS.
GO AWAY!
LEAVE LAN ALONE!

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME, BUT YOU COMPLETELY RUINED IT!
WE WERE ON A DATE, AND YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST COME HERE AND FIGHT AND KILL WITHOUT A REASON! DO YOU KNOW IT'S MY FIRST TIME GOING SHOPPING?
啪呔
I THOUGHT I WOULD ASK LAN TO TAKE ME TO THE BAWEILING SECTION OF THE GREAT WALL, THE ONE STILL NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC!
T/N: Baweiling, "mountains that surround on eight sides".
I CAN KISS ALL THAT GOODBYE NOW!
WE COULD HAVE APPRECIATED ITS GREATNESS WITHOUT THE HARASSMENT OF TOURISTS.
LATER ON, OFFICER JIA WILL COME AND COLLECT ME, AND I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK TO THAT TERRIBLE PLACE...

Not knowing...
If there'll be...
Another chance...
DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO GO BACK NOW!

ロ牙
牙

術数師
宮本武蔵的
末世猎人

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THE KENSEI'S CALLIGRAPHY

天航 & 孫威軍

by TINHONG and Suen Wai Kwan

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Kensei's Calligraphy 7

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Chapter 7
Wang Hou's Past (2)

You...
You are...
THE DEVIL!

YES,
I AM THE DEVIL'S...
DESCENDENT!
WHERE IS YOUR PROOF? WHO ARE HIS ANCESTORS?
I CAN NOT REVEAL THE DETAILS.
BUT IF THIS CHILD IS LEFT ALIVE, HE WILL ENDANGER US ALL.
呀
呀

THIS CHILD CAN ONLY BLAME HIS OWN POOR FATE... IF I TAKE HIM WITH ME, HE'LL HAVE TO SUFFER.
WHAT I'M DOING MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN A FUTURE FILLED WITH REGRET!
EVEN IF OUR PEOPLE DON'T KILL HIM, THEY'LL HAVE TO BREAK ALL FOUR OF HIS LIMBS AND IMPRISON HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...
YOU'RE NO GOD, WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE RIGHT FROM WRONG?!
YOU CALL THIS CHILD THE DEVIL, BUT HE'S DONE NOTHING WRONG. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT'S YOU PEOPLE THAT LOOK LIKE DEVILS!

NO MATTER WHAT PROBLEM LITTLE HU'S ANCESTORS HAD WITH YOU, SIR, LITTLE HU IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY OF IT!
I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR!
AN INFANT IS LIKE A BLANK PIECE OF PAPER. AS LONG AS HE'S SEPARATED FROM HIS REAL FAMILY, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO TEACH HIM TO BECOME A DEVIL!

I BEG YOU SIR,
I BEG YOU SIR,
……
PLEASE, SIR, SHOW SOME MERCY AND LET GO OF THIS INNOCENT CHILD. LET GO OF MY LITTLE HU!
I SWEAR TO THE HEAVENS THAT I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE TO RAISING LITTLE HU TO BECOME A KIND, HONEST, RESPONSIBLE PERSON!
Little Hu is innocent, he's innocent...
NEVER!
Whatever comes out of my breasts counts as milk, right?

And you said if there's milk, you would leave this place...
You said it!
DON'T YOU GO BACK ON IT!

AAAAAH!
咲!
A LUNATIC!
YOU REALLY ARE A LUNATIC!

MR. LAN.
I ONLY STOPPED THE BLEEDING, BUT YOU SHOULD FIND A DOCTOR QUICKLY.
DON'T WORRY, I DIDN'T HURT HER.
IF LIKE YOU SAID, THAT LITTLE HU WILL HAVE HIS LIMBS REMOVED AND BE IMPRISONED FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE..
THE TWO OF US ARE POWERLESS TO STOP YOU TAKING LITTLE HU AWAY.
TO END HIS LIFE QUICKLY!
THEN I ASK THAT YOU BE KIND... AND ALLOW HIS FATHER..

I UNDER-STAND
I'LL LET YOU DO THE HONORS

呜呀
呜呀
Little Hu... these past two months were the happiest time of my life.
You've brought more joy to us than money could ever buy. You're already one of our own,
And now I know you'll have to live your life amputated and without freedom...

YOUR FATHER WOULD RATHER SET YOU FREE!

THOUGH I NEVER QUESTION MY TARGET'S ACTIONS,
MISS WU SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFERENT...
WHAT CAN YOU SEE?
HOUHAI IS THE FASHIONABLE NIGHTLIFE STRIP IN THE JIUCHENG DISTRICT OF BEIJING,
WHEN THE SUN SETS, THE STARS WILL LIGHT UP THE LAKE LIKE A MIRROR INTO THE HEAVENS
!?
I.... I can't see Houhai at night anymore...

T/N: Houhai, behind the sea, Jiucheng, 'old city'

LAN! YOU TOLD ME YOU'D TAKE ME THERE! YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE NOW!
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?!
ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LOVE NIGHTLIFE GO THERE
ALONG THE LAKE SIDE, THERE ARE AN UNIMAGINABLE NUMBER OF CAFES AND RESTAURANTS, EACH DIFFERENT AND STYLISH.
DON'T WORRY!

磁
磁
磁
磁
I ALWAYS KEEP MY PROMISES.

STOP STRUGGLING.
IT'S USELESS!

WE'LL GO NOW!

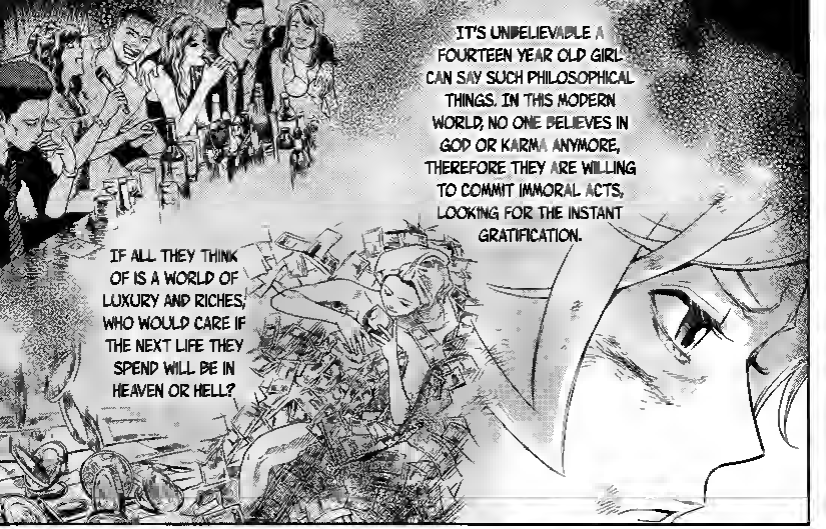
MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

ONE IS THE FIRST TO SURVIVE MY ATTACKS.
THE OTHER IS THE FIRST TO ESCAPE AS A TARGET.

HEHEHE...
INTEREST-
ING.

AH! SORRY, YOUR WOUND...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL SURVIVE.

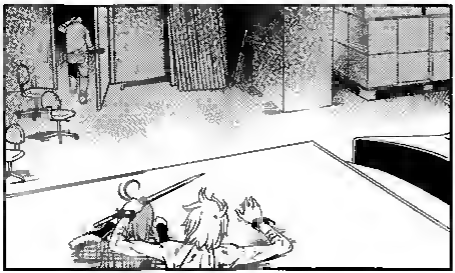
WE ARE REALLY LUCKY. IF THE TRUCK HADN'T COME AT THE MOMENT IT DID, THEN WE WOULD PROBABLY BOTH BE DEAD BY NOW..
THAT WANG HOU IS WORTHY OF HIS NAME, HE TRULY IS A MONSTER.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR PLAN THAT I HAD A CHANCE TO BREATH, ALLOWING US TO ESCAPE.
WHAT PLAN?
DIDN'T YOU MENTION WANTING TO GO TO HOUHAI BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO DELAY WANG HOU?
N...No. that was the truth.
HEY, HAVE THE SHOPS CLOSED YET? ARE WE REALLY GOING?
You really want to die, don't you?
WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE SOULS OF THE DEAD, YOU KNOW THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD AFTER IT, SO DEATH ISN'T SCARY ANYMORE.
BUT AS LONG AS I'M IN THIS WORLD, I WANT TO DO AS MUCH GOOD AS I CAN


IT'S UNBELIEVABLE A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL CAN SAY SUCH PHILOSOPHICAL THINGS. IN THIS MODERN WORLD, NO ONE BELIEVES IN GOD OR KARMA ANYMORE, THEREFORE THEY ARE WILLING TO COMMIT IMMORAL ACTS, LOOKING FOR THE INSTANT GRATIFICATION.
IF ALL THEY THINK OF IS A WORLD OF LUXURY AND RICHES, WHO WOULD CARE IF THE NEXT LIFE THEY SPEND WILL BE IN HEAVEN OR HELL?

HOWEVER, AS MUCH AS I CARRY THOSE THOUGHTS...
SEEING SOMEONE I CARE ABOUT PASS AWAY IS STILL PAINFUL FOR ME...
.....
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T FALL EITHER
THANK YOU
YOU'RE AMAZING, SIS!
Orphan cruelly murdered for rescuing richer friend

A MOUNTAIN... A REALLY, REALLY ENORMOUS MOUNTAIN.
A MOUNTAIN THAT WAS TALLER THAN THE HOUSES BEHIND HIM. THERE WERE COUNTLESS CORPSES ON IT... I'D SAY IT WAS A MOUNTAIN OF DEAD BODIES, GIVING FLOW TO A RIVER OF BLOOD.
I COULD EVEN HEAR THE POOR SOULS' SCREAMING.
RIGHT, DID YOU SEE WANG HOU'S SOUL? WHY WERE YOU SO SCARED AT THE TIME?
It was really frightening... I've seen plenty of bad people before, but none of their souls were as blood thirsty as his...
He's a devil who's even more devilish than the devil himself.
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
It was really scary...

卡夫
咱
嗡
嗡

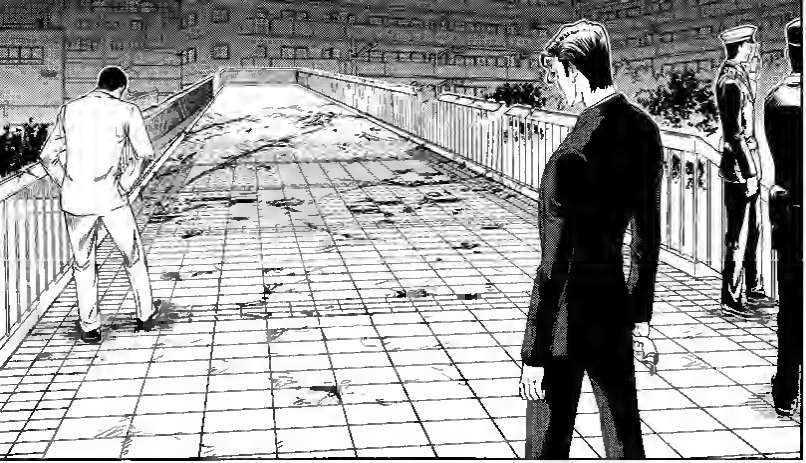


アイス

咦！

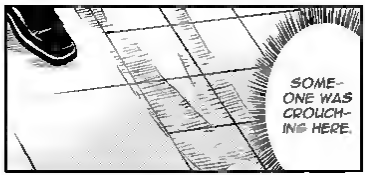
咱

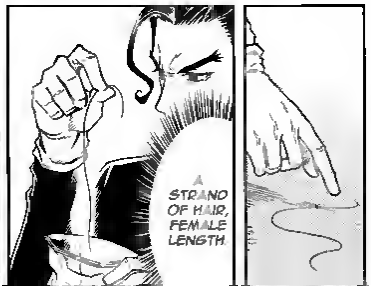
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW
THIS KIND OF SECLUDED SPACE IS BEST FOR HIDING OUT
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MR JIA IS TALENTED ENOUGH TO FIND US
咚
咚
咚
咚
咚
咚
咚
咚



LAN TOOK WU JIELING HERE, WHERE THEY MET WANG HOU.
拉

JIELING MUST HAVE CROUCHED HERE WHILE LAN DEFENDED HER FROM WANG HUO


SOME-ONE WAS CROUCH-ING HERE.


A STRAND OF HAIR, FEMALE LENGTH

LAN WAS OUT MATCHED FROM THE START, AND WAS WOUNDED BADLY.

THE PIECES HERE WERE BROKEN PRECISELY, PROBABLY DONE BY WANG HOU
A NAIL MARK?
THE POSITION OF THE MARKS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE WHILE FIGHTING
HE WAS FACING THE HIGHWAY, LOOKING INTO THE DISTANCE
WANG HOU WAS STANDING HERE.
下车
吸

THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE HIGHWAY, IN THE SOUTH EASTERN DIRECTION!
SOUTH EAST!
隆隆
WANG HOU WILL DEFINITELY PURSUE LAN...
HIS '100% TARGET ELIMINATION RATE' IS AT STAKE

呼呼呼
Oh.
Aa!
咚

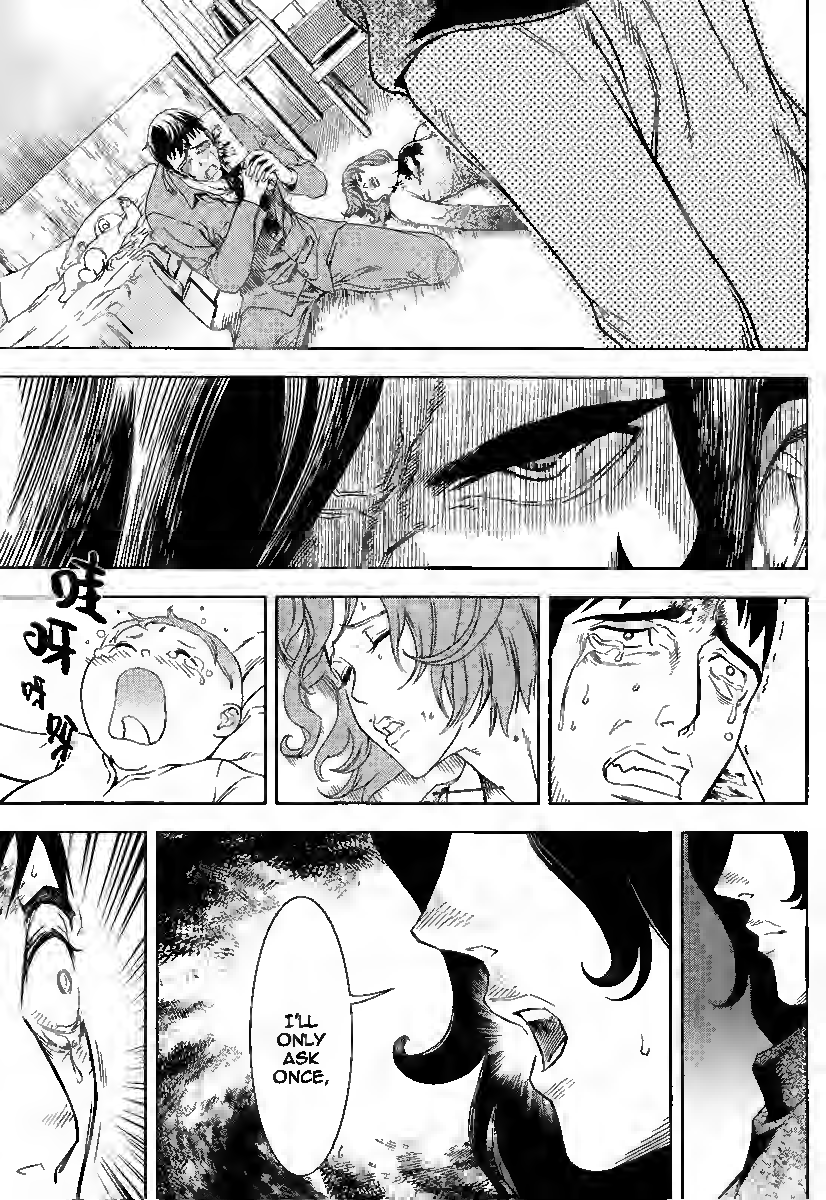
呀呀
呀
呀

哇哇哇哇
啊啊啊啊
啊啊啊

喀
Mr. Lan, the two of us were already in utter despair, losing the will to live...
YOU...

FOR THESE SHORT TWO MONTHS, WE THOUGHT WE WERE LIVING IN HEAVEN.
BUT WHEN LITTLE HU APPEARED IN OUR LIVES, WE WERE DRAGGED FROM HELL BACK INTO REALITY. HE WAS THE ONE WHO RESCUED US. HE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE US HOPE AND A REASON TO LIVE
I'M GOING TO END MYSELF RIGHT HERE!
SO INSTEAD OF BEING TORTURED TO DEATH FROM LOSING LITTLE HU,
OR
BUT...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE LITTLE HU AWAY, IT'S THE SAME AS GIVING DEATH SENTENCES TO THE BOTH OF US.

And when I die...
My wife will follow me from her blood loss.
Mr. Lan,
The lives of the three of us are in your hands.


I'LL ONLY ASK ONCE,

WILL YOU RAISE THIS CHILD EVEN IF HE IS THE DEVIL?
I WILL!
I WILL RAISE HIM TO BECOME A GOOD PERSON!
It's alright... It's alright...

YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME TWO THINGS!
FIRSTLY, YOU WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY TO THE EAST OR TO THE NORTH.
SECONDLY, YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS CHILD'S IDENTITY, INCLUDING EVERYTHING I'VE SAID TONIGHT.
THE TWO OF YOU CAN NEVER SAY A WORD TO ANYONE, EVEN THE CHILD HIMSELF CANNOT KNOW ABOUT IT.

CAN YOU DO ALL THESE THINGS FOR ME?
OTHERWISE, YOU MUST RAISE HIM WITH CARE, NEVER LET HIM GO ASTRAY...
ALAS... THE MERCY I'M SHOWING NOW MIGHT BRING UNIMAGINABLE DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE.
BUT I HAVE PROMISED YOU, AND AM NOT WILLING TO TAKE HIM AWAY.
PLUS, WHAT YOU SAID WAS RIGHT..
I PROMISE, I WILL DO IT EVEN IF I HAD TO LOSE MY LIFE!

WHO ARE WE TO DECIDE RIGHT FROM WRONG?!
WE'RE NOT GOD,

JUST
PRETEND
WE HAD
NEVER
MET.

EIGHT YEARS LATER
咔哒
LITTLE HU, IS THAT YOU? DID YOU CATCH ANY BEETLES WITH LITTLE JIE?
THERE'RE SO MANY OF THEM BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS THIS SEASON,
I'VE EVEN SEEN A FEW OF THEM FLYING PAST THE WINDOW

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HURT?
I'M GLAD IT'S ONLY GRAZES.. DOES IT HURT?
NOPE
MUM, THE ONE I CAUGHT IS HUGE!

YOU ARGUED WITH LITTLE JIE?
NO, WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS.
YEAH
DID YOU FALL, OR WERE YOU IN A FIGHT?
THEN...
AH! DAMN IT!
HAVE A SHOWER, YOUR DAD WILL COME BACK ANY MINUTE NOW
OKAY!
I'M HOME
DAD, I CAUGHT A HUGE BEETLE TODAY!
WHOA! YOU'RE AMAZING!

I'M NOT SURE IF WHAT MR. LAN SAID ALL THOSE YEARS AGO WAS TRUE.
REALLY?
IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN LITTLE JIE'S!
HOW CAN HE BE THE DEVIL?
LITTLE HU IS JUST LIKE AN ORDINARY CHILD, NOTHING APNORMAL, AND VERY OBEDIENT.
OF COURSE!
ARE TIGERS REALLY THAT SCARY?
IT'S GETTING LATE. WE SHOULD STOP HERE FOR TONIGHT GO TO SLEEP.

T/N story of Wusong is one of an adventurer killing a tiger that has plagued a mountain with his bare hands after becoming intoxicated.

EVEN I CAN KILL A TIGER LIKE THAT!
GO TO SLEEP, SILLY.
HAH!
YA!
TAH!
T/N: 'Hu' means tiger
GOOD NIGHT.
LITTLE HU IS THE STRONGEST OF THE TIGERS, HOW CAN YOU LOSE?
DADDY BELIEVES YOU'
BUT I REALLY CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME DAD?

GOOD NIGHT MUM, GOOD NIGHT DAD.

術数師
宮本武蔵的
末世傳人

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THE KENSEI'S CALLIGRAPHY

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Typesetter: Destiny
Redraw p134: Ell
p138: Destiny
p150-151: martikuki
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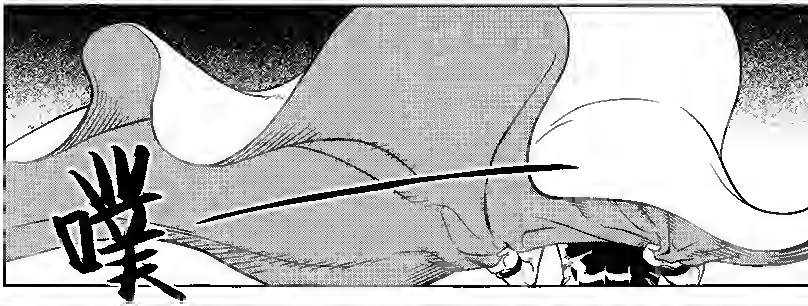
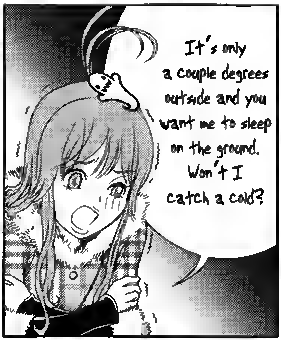
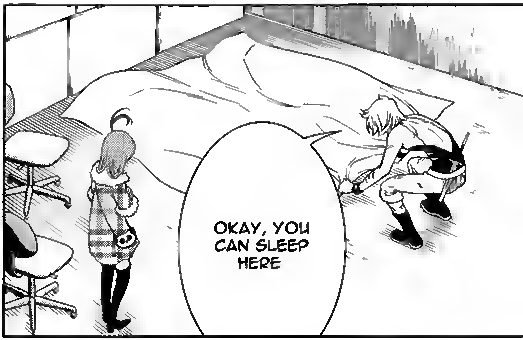
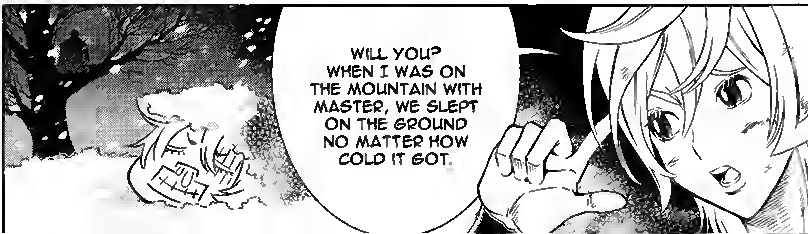
Chapter 8
Calligraphic
Sword


咪

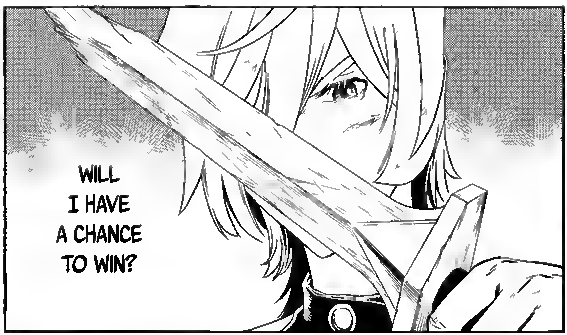

It's only a couple degrees outside and you want me to sleep on the ground. Won't I catch a cold?

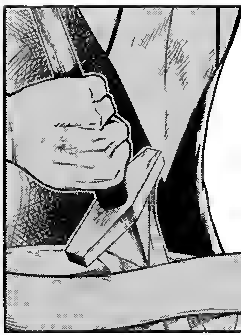

OKAY, YOU CAN SLEEP HERE

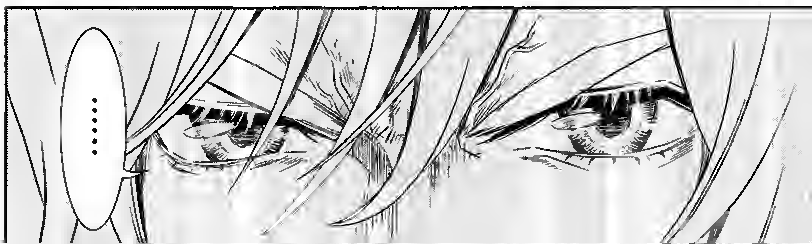

WELL YOU? WHEN I WAS ON THE MOUNTAIN WITH MASTER, WE SLEPT ON THE GROUND NO MATTER HOW COLD IT GOT.

BUT YOU STUDY MARTIAL ARTS, HOW CAN YOU COMPARE WITH ME?
THEN ..
HOW ABOUT THIS!
SOMETIMES I NEED TO PULL ALL-NIGHTERS IN OFFICER JIA'S OFFICE, AND I ALWAYS SLEPT LIKE THIS
It's pretty comfortable
Empty space
I NEED TO USE THE RESTROOM.
THE TOILET?!
DO YOU WANT ME TO DO IT RIGHT HERE?!
No, I wanted to say I'll stay here and guard the door
JUST GO, DON'T WORRY.

IF I FIGHT WANG HOU AGAIN,


WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN?




……

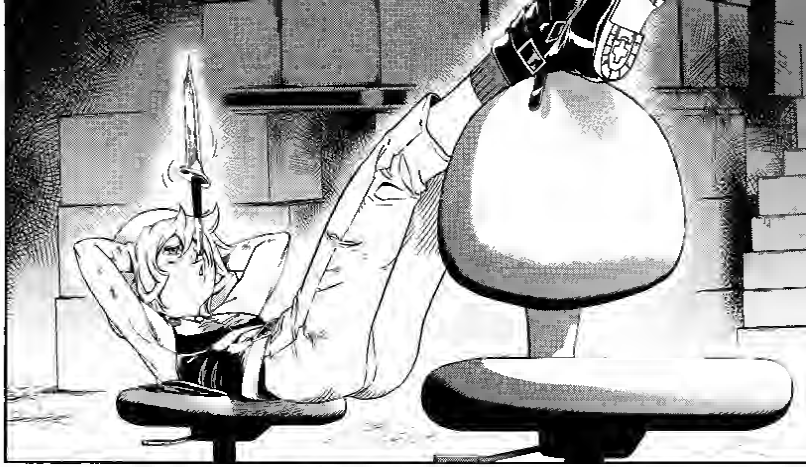
咚咚咚
嘖
啊啊啊啊

BT
BT
BT

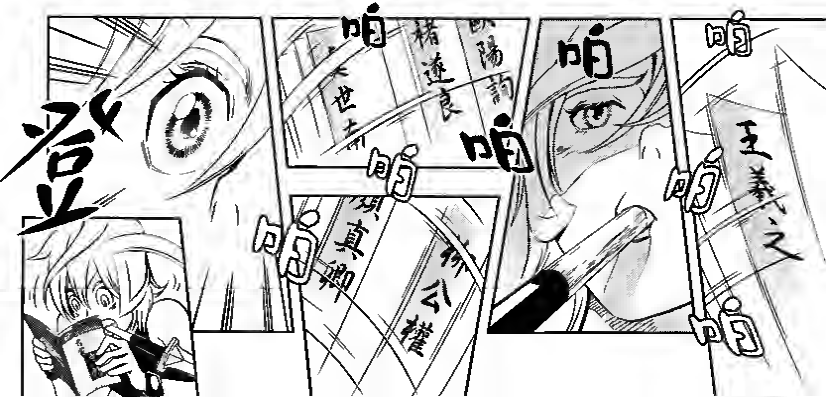
THE 'FIRST SWORD OF ETERNITY' IS ALREADY MY FASTEST THRUST, BUT WANG HOU CAN CATCH MY ACCELERATING SWORD TIP WITH HIS BARE HANDS
NOT YET!
THIS SUPER ASSASSIN IS IMPOSSIBLY FAST, I CAN SEE THAT NOW
STRENGTH AND SPEED. THESE TWO BASIC ELEMENTS DICTATE WHO EMERGES VICTORIOUS
EVERY MOVE WANG HOU USES IS LIKELY DERIVED FROM AN ANCIENT MARTIAL ART ONE THAT'S MAIN GOAL IS THE DEATH OF ITS OPPONENT, MAKING EACH MOVE A POSSIBLE DEATHBLOW
AND IT'S BECAUSE WANG HOU POSSESSES UNPARALLELED STRENGTH AND SPEED THAT HE CAN PUSH THOSE MOVES TO THEIR ABSOLUTE LIMIT

WANG HOU'S ABILITIES ARISE FROM HIS PERFECT FORM, NO EFFORT IS WASTED.
WHEN HIS ATTACKS LAND, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE RESULTING FORCE IS TRULY NIGHTMARISH.

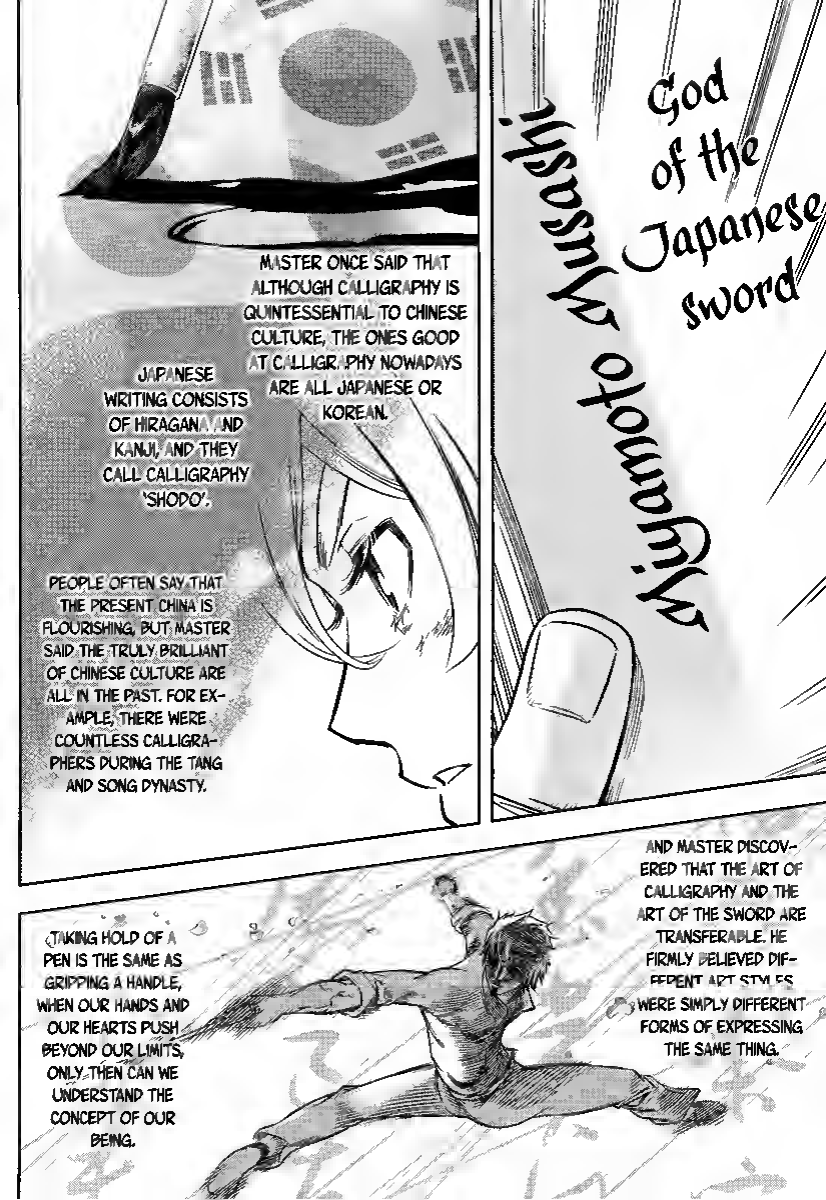
TECHNIQUE
THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN WIN AGAINST WANG HOU.
HOWEVER EVERYTHING I USE IS USELESS AGAINST HIM. HOW DO I CREATE NEW TECHNIQUES IN SUCH A SHORT TIME?



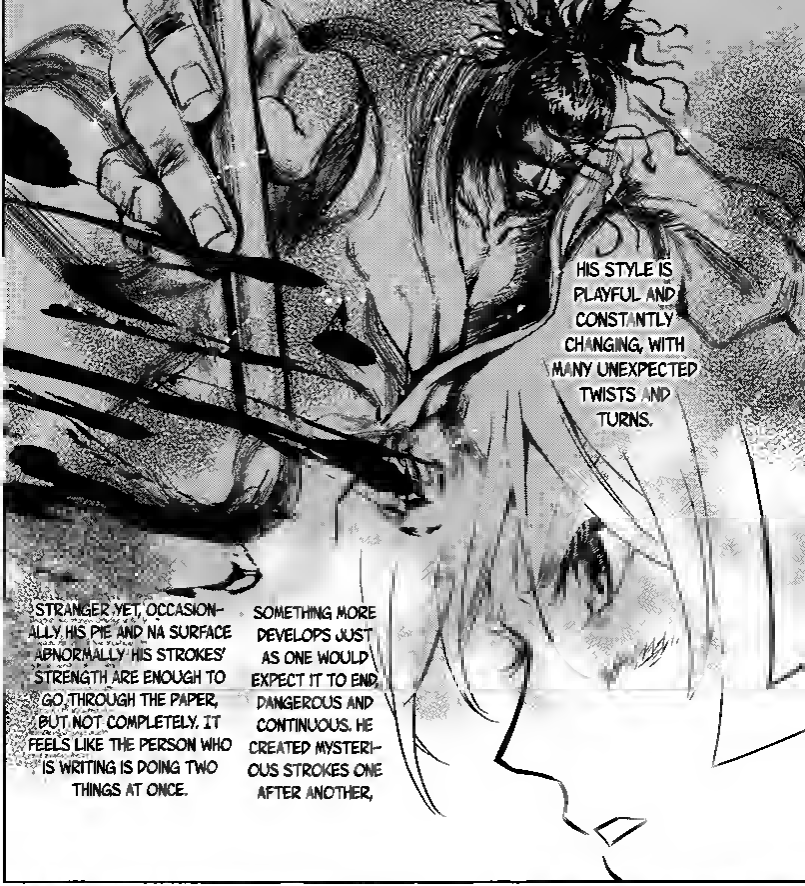
T/N the characters on the books are the names of famous calligraphers in the past



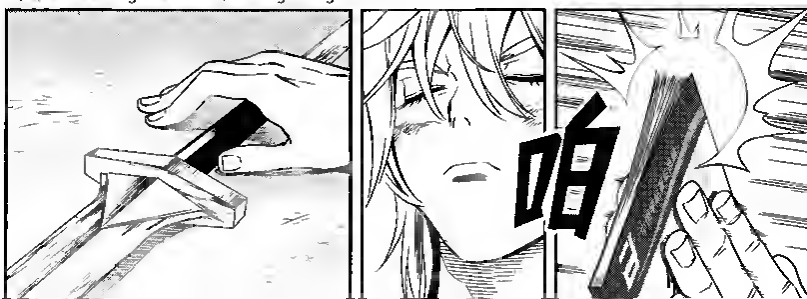
啪
THE CALLIGRA-PHER OF THIS STYLE IS...
THIS... THE BRUSH CREATES GHOST-LIKE STROKES, WITH KANA CHARACTERS BETWEEN THE CHINESE, UNIQUELY SHAPED AND STRANGELY REFRESHING.


God of the Japanese sword
Miyamoto Musashi
MASTER ONCE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CALLIGRAPHY IS QUINTESSENTIAL TO CHINESE CULTURE, THE ONES GOOD AT CALLIGRAPHY NOWADAYS ARE ALL JAPANESE OR KOREAN.
JAPANESE WRITING CONSISTS OF HIRAGANA AND KANJI, AND THEY CALL CALLIGRAPHY 'SHODO'.
PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT THE PRESENT CHINA IS FLOURISHING, BUT MASTER SAID THE TRULY BRILLIANT OF CHINESE CULTURE ARE ALL IN THE PAST. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE COUNTLESS CALLIGRAPHERS DURING THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTY.
TAKING HOLD OF A PEN IS THE SAME AS GRIPPING A HANDLE, WHEN OUR HANDS AND OUR HEARTS PUSH BEYOND OUR LIMITS, ONLY THEN CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF OUR BEING.
AND MASTER DISCOVERED THAT THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY AND THE ART OF THE SWORD ARE TRANSFERABLE. HE FIRMLY BELIEVED DIFFERENT ART STYLES WERE SIMPLY DIFFERENT FORMS OF EXPRESSING THE SAME THING.

AND THE CALLIGRAPHY BOOKS I RECEIVED FROM MASTER, FROM WHICH I CREATED MY STYLE, ARE MOSTLY OF THE CLASSICAL CHINESE ORIGIN.
I'VE NEVER SEEN CALLIGRAPHY FROM A JAPANESE PERSON.
AND I'VE ONLY REALIZED NOW THAT THE FAMOUS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI IS ALSO A CALLIGRAPHER.
咱
咱
咱
咱


HIS STYLE IS PLAYFUL AND CONSTANTLY CHANGING, WITH MANY UNEXPECTED TWISTS AND TURNS.
STRANGER YET, OCCASIONALLY HIS PIE AND NA SURFACE ABNORMALLY. HIS STROKES' STRENGTH ARE ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH THE PAPER, BUT NOT COMPLETELY. IT FEELS LIKE THE PERSON WHO IS WRITING IS DOING TWO THINGS AT ONCE.
SOMETHING MORE DEVELOPS JUST AS ONE WOULD EXPECT IT TO END. DANGEROUS AND CONTINUOUS. HE CREATED MYSTERIOUS STROKES ONE AFTER ANOTHER,

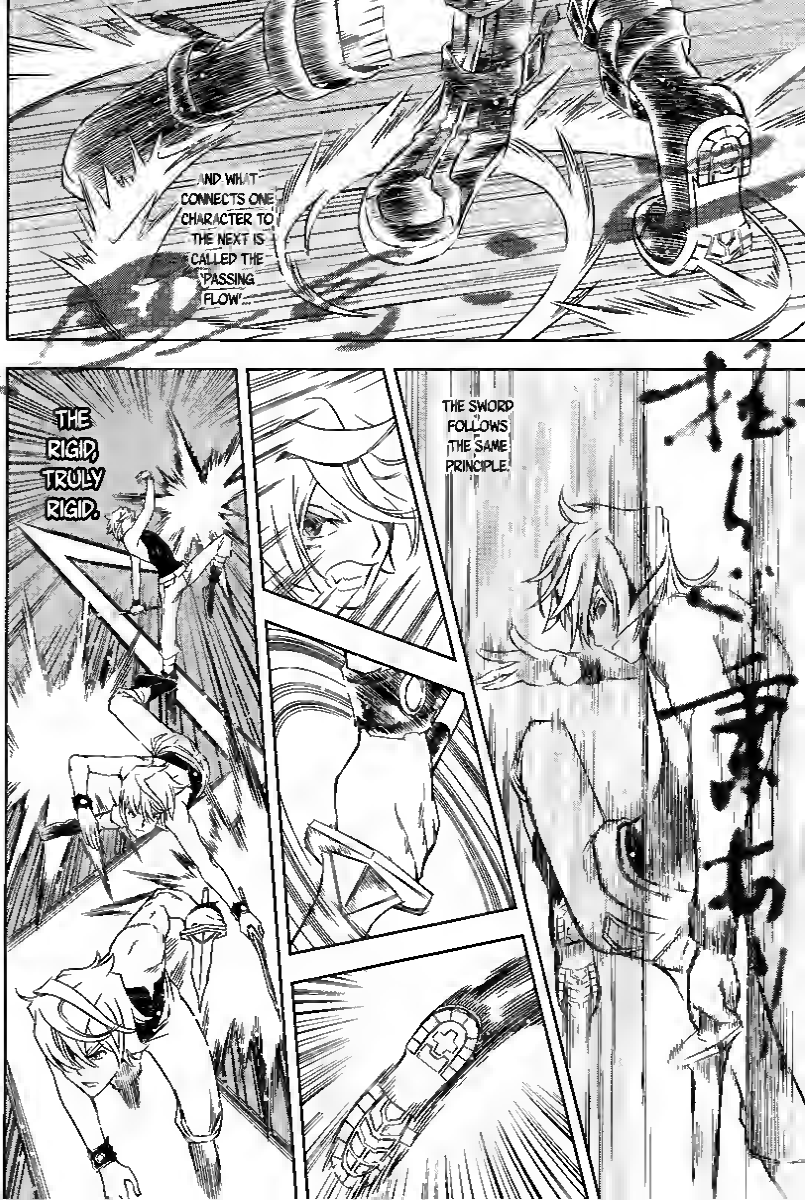
T/N: Pie – left diagonal strokes / Na – right diagonal strokes



NOT YET!
OKAY, AGAIN!

AGAIN!

WHEN SOMEONE TRULY UNDERSTANDS CALLIGRAPHY,
THEY DO NOT LOOK AT EACH INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS.
BUT THE BEAUTY THAT LIES WITHIN THE ARRANGEMENT OF THEM.


AND WHAT CONNECTS ONE CHARACTER TO THE NEXT IS CALLED THE "PASSING FLOW".
THE SWORD FOLLOWS THE SAME PRINCIPLE.
THE RIGID, TRULY RIGID.

THE SUPPLE. TRULY SUPPLE.
WHETHER GOING SLOW OR FAST, THE TWO CAN NEVER MIX.
I FEEL ...
THIS STYLE OF SWORD DRAWN OUT FROM MUSASHI'S CALLIGRAPHY...
MORE AND MORE ...

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MORE AND MORE ERRATIC
THE MOVEMENTS ARE COMPLETELY DISSIMILAR AND UNCONNECTED, EVEN THE 'PASSING FLOW' IS OFTEN DISTURBED

Is this... a new kind of bed you've invented?
.....
THIS IS STRANGE. HOW CAN IT BE?
WHY DID YOU TAKE SO LONG?

I GOT LOST ON THE WAY, SO I CHATTED FOR A BIT WITH A FEW GHOSTS. I LOST TRACK OF TIME
.....
AFTER FIGHTING ALL DAY, YOU'RE STILL PRACTICING YOUR SWORD
WHY ARE YOU EXERTING YOURSELF? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PROMOTION?
YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD
YOU'RE WORKING HARD
I NEED TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU.
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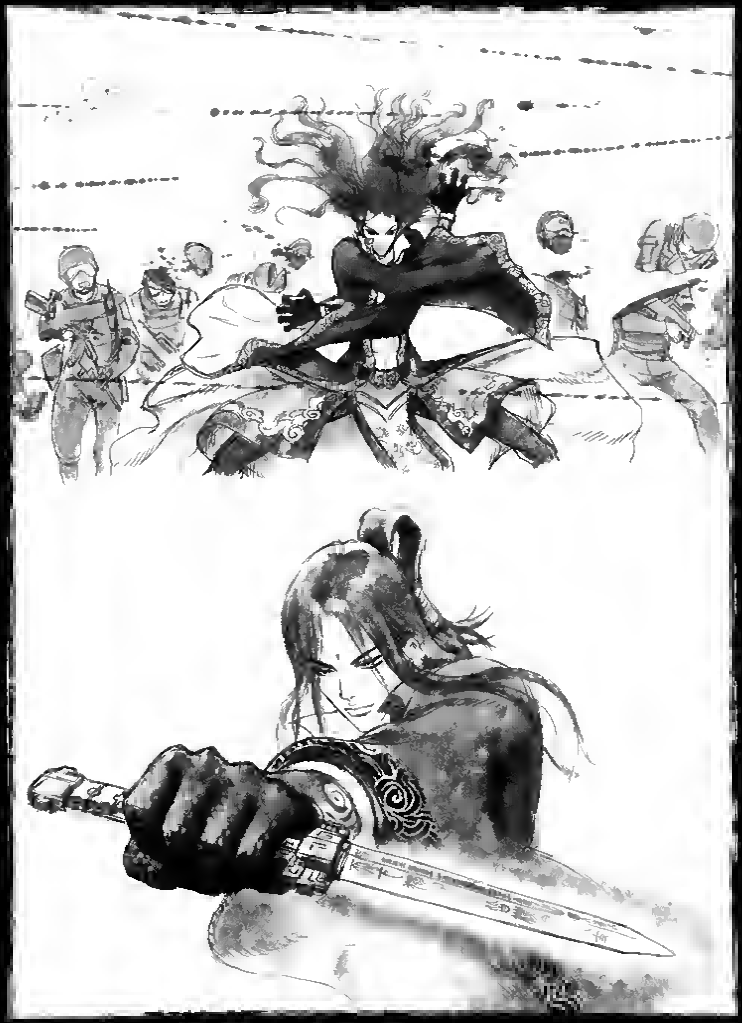
휙
휙

I NEED TO STUDY THE CALLIGRAPHY MORE
The thing you just said is too 'cool', can you repeat it for me?
IS THAT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI?

MIYAMOTO MUSASHI
...
THE MIYAMOTO MUSASHI WHO USES NITORYU?!
NITORYU?!
Nitoryu - two sword style
名家字帖
<VolumeTwo - End>



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